

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02713 031126Z

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ACTION OES-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT

REF: 1. TOKYO 1351

2. TOKYO 1157

EMBOFF AND W.O. DOUB, PREVIOUSLY AEC COMMISSIONER, MET WITH JAPAN AEC AND UTILITY EXECUTIVES MARCH 1. MR. IPPON-MATSU, CHAIRMAN JAPACO AND PRESIDENT ERG INDICATED:

1. HE EXPECTS AND CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT THAT JAPAN HAVE INDEPENDENT AND RELIABLE ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING CAPABILITIES AND FACILITIES BY MID TO LATE 1980'S.

2. UPDATE OF ELECTRICAL DEMAND FORECASTS AND NUCLEAR FRACTION TOTAL INSTALLED CAPACITY BEING CONDUCTED BY ERG (REF. #1) EXPECTED TO BE LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED. (EXPECTS 60,000 MWE INSTALLED GOAL FOR 1985 TO GO DOWN TO ABOUT 40,000 MWE.)

3. PROGRESS STAFSFACTORY ON JAPAN'S CENTRIFUGE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. NOTE: 180 UNITS IN OPERATION AS OF LATE 1974, ANOTHER 250 SCHEDULED FOR OPERATION EARLY 1975, SOME 10,000 PLANNED TO BE IN OPERATION BY 1977.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 02713 031126Z

COMMENT: AS JAPAN PLACES IN OPERATION MORE CENTRIFUGES

AND DEVELOPES INCREASING FAMILIARITY WITH CENTRIFUGE TECHNOLOGY, IT IS CONSIDERED NATURAL THAT OTHER THINGS EQUAL, JAPAN WOULD FAVOR CENTRIFUGE OVER GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT FOR JOINT PROJECT. POSTPONEMENT NUCLEAR CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DELAY IN ENRICHMENT REQUIREMENTS LESSEN URGENCY FOR QUICK ENRICHMENT PLANT DECISION AND HAVE EFFECT OF FAVORING CENTRIFUGE APPROACH SINCE TECHNOLOGY GAP EXPECTED TO NARROW WITH TIME.

4. PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP IPPONMATSU-DICKEMAN PERHAPS NOT PRIMARY, BUT CERTAINLY NOT NEGIGLIBLE FACTOR IN ERG LEANING MORE TOWARD CENGEX.

5. IPPONMATUS REITERATED PREVIOUS (REF. 2) POSITION THAT MAJOR CHANGES IN APPROACH STUDIED BY UEA-ESC, PRIMARILY LESS US INVOLVEMENT, CAUSING JAPAN TO TAKE HARD SECOND LOOK.

6. IMPORTANCE OF US UTILITY VIEWPOINT AND INTENTIONS RESTRESSED. CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN EEI AND JAPAN UTILITIES SOUGHT BY IPPONMATUS. EXPECTS TO CODIFY INFORMATION EXCHANGE IN APRIL WHEN EEI CHAIRMAN CRAWFORD VISITS JAPAN.

7. ASSOCIATED MATTER: IPPONMATSU PREDICTS JAPAN GNP SHORTLY TO RETURN TO AND REMAIN AROUND 5 PERCENT PER YEAR FOR SOME TIME; ELECTRICAL GROWTH FORECAST AT ABOUT 6 PERCENT PER YEAR.

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